

Carrillo faces electorate

MADRID, Dec. 20 (AFP). — Senor Santiago Carrillo, Secretary General of Spain's outlawed Communist Party, will stand as a Madrid candidate in next year's planned legislative elections, the daily *Diario 16* reported today quoting party sources. The Communists are currently meeting at both national and provincial level to designate candidates for both the proposed Congress of Deputies and the Senate and plan to contest seats in all the provinces, the newspaper said. The party's eventual list of candidates would be made public in the first fortnight of January, *Diario 16* said.

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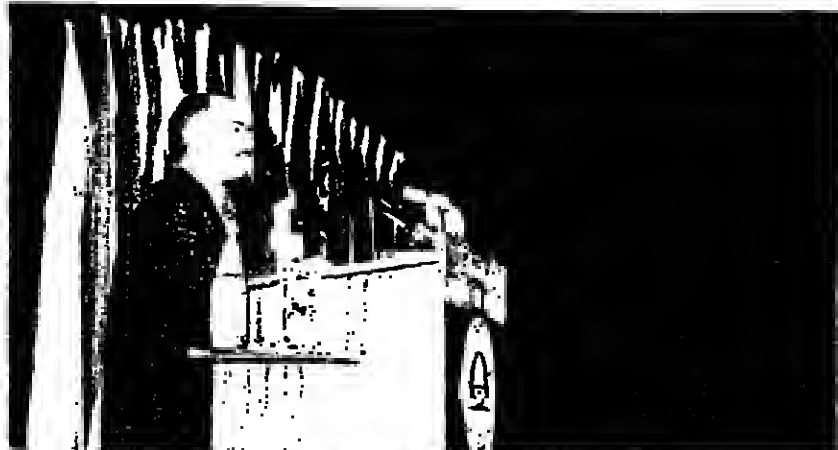
Suarez approves autonomy

BARCELONA, Dec. 20 (AFP). — Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez expressed support here today for a Catalonia autonomy statute drafted by the province's council general and approved by the next parliament. M. Suarez, making his first official visit in Spain since last Wednesday's referendum, said also he favoured a "co-officialisation" of the Catalan language, in tandem with Castilian Spanish, and expressed support of an "institutionalisation" of the region based on the old provincial secular organisations. The two questions, of language and a specific status, are the main Catalan demands.

Opening 1st Conference of Arab Culture Ministers.

Hussein: Mobilise Arab cultural potential

AMMAN (JT). — His Majesty King Hussein opened the First Conference of Arab Culture Ministers Monday with a call for "a cultural renaissance whose roots deep in history and whose horizons are open to the future." The King was addressing cultural ministers from 17 Arab countries and a host of men of letters gathered at Al Hussein Youth City to plan the broad lines of a common Arab cultural policy that would be responsive to the challenges of development. The four-day conference is sponsored by the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (AECSCO).



His Majesty King Hussein addresses the opening session of the First Conference of Arab Culture Ministers at Al Hussein Youth City here Monday. (JNA photo).

In his speech, the King spelled two imperatives; to preserve Arab cultural heritage and to view it through an authentic expression of that heritage in keeping with the spirit of the age. Culture that is not renewed and does not believe in the mind science soon freezes and fades away. We want our culture to be improved and to be transformed into creative energy in this day, King Hussein said. Arab states have begun discovering their true identity and their role in the world. Great wealth and resources have sprung up in the Arab homeland, and the outside world — especially that part of it which used to exploit or to antagonise us — is now examining with deep interest the role which the Arab World is preparing itself to play, he added.

The King was followed at the rostrum by the Omani Minister of Information and Culture, Prince Fahd Al Said, who, on behalf of the Arab ministers attending, thanked His Majesty and the Jordanian government for their efforts to make of the conference a success.

AECSCO's Director General Dr. Muhiyeddine Saber then outlined to the conference the preliminary work which the Arab organisation had undertaken in preparation for

the meetings during the past two years.

At the conference's first session Monday Jordan's Minister of Culture Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf was elected chairman.

Informed sources close to the conference said that delegates were seriously considering the possibility of setting up an Arab cultural fund under the auspices of AECSCO to which all the organisation's member countries would contribute.

A permanent follow-up committee is also envisaged to implement the recommendations of the conference.

Rabin calls for early general elections in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (R). — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, embroiled in a political crisis, told the Israeli parliament today that he was recommending early general elections. The statement by the 54-year-old former army chief-of-staff was expected to be followed by his resignation as premier — although he would continue to direct Israeli policy at the head of a caretaker government.

Mr. Rabin's move appeared to be designed largely at winning widespread parliamentary and public support before possible peace negotiations with the Arab states. The premier told the Knesset that he would urge early general elections to his ruling Labour alignment movement. Elections had previously been scheduled for late next year.

I believe that early elections are necessary and I will recommend to the party that these be held," Mr. Rabin said.

Observers speculated that the move was likely to be held next year.

Mr. Rabin said such a move was avoidable following the failure of the small National Religious Party (NRP) to support his government in a no-confidence vote last week. Participation of the NRP in the coalition government given the premier a parliamentary majority which he no longer enjoys.

The Israeli leader's election was expected to be approved by top Labour alignment figures including former Premier Menachem Begin, when he meets them in Tel Aviv.

Under Israeli law Mr. Rabin will be expected to resign in order to dissolve the 120-member Knesset and hold elections, possibly as early as next year.

Mr. Rabin precipitated the political crisis yesterday by dissolving the 10-member NRP — which held three cabinet portfolios from his ruling coalition. The Likud rightwing opposition immediately tabled a new motion of no-confidence which is scheduled for another parliamentary vote next week.

Mr. Rabin could announce his resignation beforehand — in which case the motion would not be voted on — or he could try to weather the vote with the aid of non-aligned members of parliament. But whichever course the pre-

mier chose, it appeared clear that he wanted to get the polls soon in the hope of getting solid backing from Israelis for the hard bargaining ahead both with the United States and with the Arab world over peace in the Middle East.

Some political specialists said Mr. Rabin had now decided that Israel would have little choice but to give up large chunks of occupied Arab land if it wanted to ensure continued U.S. support.

By presenting relatively moderate policies in a forthcoming political campaign, Mr. Rabin would be certain to anger both the opposition-rightwing and his former allies in the religious party.

According to the political specialists, Mr. Rabin wants to explain to Israelis that the only alternative to giving up territory is continued strife against the surrounding Arab world without the certainty of backing from the Jimmy Carter administration in Washington.

In a related development, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy today described the dismissal of the two rightwing ministers from the Israeli cabinet as a manoeuvre to freeze moves for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Mr. Fahmy told reporters in Cairo today: "These are Israeli manoeuvres to freeze (efforts for) a Middle East settlement. The Israelis have unmasked their tactics by trying to undermine peace moves."

In a separate development, 39 per cent of Israelis are prepared to accept the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in a reconvened Geneva Middle East peace conference if the PLO recognises Israel, according to a poll published in Tel Aviv today.

The Israeli government opposes such participation claiming that

the PLO is purely a "terrorist organisation".

The poll, by the Pori public survey group for the newspaper *Haaretz*, showed that 47.5 per cent of Israelis supported the government stand in opposing PLO participation.

However the figure of 39 per cent in favour was believed to indicate some shift in public opinion though no comparative figures on public opinion over similar questions in the past were available.

Pollsters said 13.5 per cent of those questioned said they had no opinion on the issue.

1st woman appointed to Carter's cabinet

PLAINS, Georgia, Dec. 20 (Agencies). — President-elect Jimmy Carter today appointed Mrs. Juanita Kreps as his Secretary of Commerce.

Addressing a press conference here, he announced that former Judge Griffin Bell, 58, of Atlanta, Georgia, would be Attorney-General, and Rep. Bob Selmer Bergland of Minnesota Secretary of Agriculture.

Mrs. Kreps, Vice President of Duke University and an economist, is the first woman appointed to Mr. Carter's cabinet — she is 55 years old.

Mr. Bergland, 48, a Democrat, is a member of the House of Representatives' Agriculture Committee.

Mr. Carter faced a barrage of questions about his choice of Mr. Bell who has been under fire from certain civil rights groups.

The president-elect has four cabinet appointments still to make: those of secretaries of defence, labour, housing, and health and welfare.

The newspapers include two independent journals, the Arabic-language *Al Nahar* and the French-language *L'Orient-Le Jour*, and four dailies of declared leftist sympathies: *Al Muharrir*, *Al Safir*, *Beirut* and the Communist Party organ *Al Nida*.

The newspaper publishers' body the Press Association, appealed in a statement today for the troops to withdraw, adding that — if the authorities wished — it was ready to set up a "self-censorship committee".

Gen. Najj Jamil, who is in a Syrian delegation which went to Cairo with President Hafez Assad told Reuters today the newspapers were "agents hired to serve the interests of nations other than their homeland."

"We cannot accept hostile propaganda published by these newspapers... to undermine the safety of the Arab peace-keeping force", Gen. Jamil said.

No daily papers appeared in the western sector of Beirut today while newspapers in the eastern (rightist) sector of the city appeared normally.

The statement by the Press Association said the newspapers' publishers had contacted Premier Selim Al Hoss, who is also Information Minister in the Lebanese government, about the action against the press, but were told Dr. Al Hoss is away in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait until tomorrow.

Dr. Al Hoss had said on his return from a trip to Damascus Friday that the "problem of the occupation of newspapers has been made the responsibility of the peace-keeping forces."

Several hours after his statement, observers said, the offices of *Al Safir* were occupied by soldiers.

Observers noted that one of the resolutions approved at the Arab summit in Riyadh and Cairo to end the Lebanese civil war said the peace-keeping force, under the orders of President Elias Sarkis, could take steps to prevent all negative information and propaganda from any side and to use the media to consolidate the ceasefire.

6 newspapers now closed in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Dec. 20 (Agencies). — Soldiers of the Arab League peace force were occupying six of Lebanon's daily newspapers and preventing them from publishing today. There was no official announcement explaining the action. But Syrian Deputy Defence Minister Najj Jamil said in Cairo that the largely-Syrian troops had been forced to close down the Beirut newspapers because they were spreading "hostile propaganda".

The rightwing newspaper *Al Beirak* speculated that the government would seek emergency powers from parliament later this week to deal with post-war problems. These would include press censorship measures.

The Phalangist Radio, also rightwing, said parliament would meet on Thursday to hear a policy statement from the government of Dr. Al Hoss.

Losses caused by the war in Lebanon have been estimated at more than \$4 billion and Dr. Al Hoss formed his government of technocrats earlier this month with the express aim of putting the economy on its feet again.

The Lebanese premier is due to start official talks in Kuwait tomorrow when he meets Kuwait's Finance Minister Abdul Rahman Al Atiqi to ask for aid in the reconstruction of the Lebanese economy.

In other developments, a two-hour gun duel was reported by Lebanese eyewitnesses today between shore-based artillery in the leftist-held south and Israeli patrol boats chasing a coaster into the ancient port of Tyre.

Informed sources in Beirut said the exchange ended at 4 a.m. when the unidentified coaster, carrying trucks and jeeps, safely reached the harbour.

Tyre is the outlet to the sea for Palestinian commandos and leftwing forces in south Lebanon, which is not yet under the control of the mainly-Syrian Arab peace force that has ended the civil war in the rest of the country.

In Tel Aviv, military officials denied that Israeli patrol boats had been involved in any gun battle off Tyre.

In London, Lloyds quoted Rhodes Radio as saying the 389-ton motorship *Bouboghina* — owners unknown — was shelled off the Israeli coast in the early hours and its crew had taken to lifeboats.

as creation of an independent Palestinian state, *Al Akhbar* said. It would also lay down positions on rights of the Palestinian people, joint Arab action on local and international levels and the strengthening of both countries' armed forces.

Mr. Mubarak was talking to reporters as President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and his Syrian counterpart Hafez Assad continued private talks on ways of bringing peace to the Middle East, and on the situation in Lebanon.

He said: "The outcome of the talks will be a bombshell and it will have world-wide repercussions."

Mr. Mubarak added that the talks had been "very fruitful and in the interest of the entire Arab nation" but he refused to elaborate further.

President Assad arrived here last Saturday.

The talks are seen here as part of a concerted political peace offensive by moderate Arab governments, spearheaded by Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The two leaders emerged smiling from a two-hour private meeting at the ornate Qubbah Presidential Palace on the northern outskirts of the Egyptian capital. President Assad said the talks were successful.

Before the talks were adjourned, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy told reporters that the two leaders were fusing their military and political strategy.

"These meetings are a truning point... and their outcome will soon reflect on the entire Arab nation," he said.

Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskander Ahmad said the two foreign ministers will outline the results of the summit at a press conference here tomorrow.

Egyptian news media reported today that a communique would also be issued at the end of President Assad's visit.

According to the independent daily *Al Akhbar* the text would include Mr. Sadat's acceptance of an invitation to visit Syria as well as a clear position on settlement of the Middle East crisis.

The text would set down positions on the liberation of Israeli-occupied Arab territories as well

gtheing of both countries' armed forces. Lastly, it would take up the question of the recent Arab summit's decision on ending the Lebanese civil war, *Al Akhbar* said.



CAIRO TALKS — President Hafez Assad of Syria (left) listens to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during their meeting Monday at the Qubbah Presidential Palace in Cairo. (AP wirephoto).

Arab League ready to hold preparatory meet for Geneva Mideast conference

CAIRO, Dec. 20 (AFP). — The Arab League is prepared to sponsor a meeting of representatives of Arab front-line nations and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to work out a coordinated Arab position during a resumed Geneva Middle East peace conference, the league's Secretary General Mahmoud Riad announced yesterday.

Mr. Riad said the league was prepared to hold such a meeting for representatives from Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the PLO any time it was asked to do so.

In Tripoli, PLO's leader Yasser Arafat, on a visit to Libya, told the Libyan news agency ARNA yesterday that the "American-Zionist plot against the Palestinian revolution" is continuing. "It is, up within the PLO."

Mr. Arafat had arrived in Tripoli yesterday from Algiers accompanied by Abu Walid and Abu Mazin, members of the central committee of Fateh the main revolutionary group.

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Trees of culture

The meeting of Arab ministers of culture now taking place in Amman is special and peculiar in several ways, and potentially of more importance than the ministers themselves have probably thought it to be.

Culture, unlike desalination plants or athletic stadiums, is not something that lends itself naturally or easily to planning and control. In the midst of the tremendous economic boom that envelops and determines much of what is happening throughout the Arab World today, the matter of culture remains singularly detached from the many processes of state-controlled planning, implementation and supervision, as rightly it should. It is interesting to contrast the meeting of Arab culture ministers that is taking place here in Amman this week with the meeting of OPEC oil ministers that took place in Doha last week. While the oil ministers could sit down and manipulate the most minute levers and buttons of their oil sector, the culture ministers here are more like appointed guardians respectfully watching over their domain of all that is cultural, rather than defining or directing specific cultural activities.

This is the special nature of a "ministry of culture", because it is an organ of state that can do little more than follow where the culture of a people leads it, according to those creative human impulses that have defined art and culture, and thus knowledge and truth, throughout the history of humanity. Culture springs forth from the soul of a society, and it is the peculiar job of a culture minister to try and nurture the artistic instincts and prod the cultural impulses of a nation. The fact that this is the first conference of Arab cultural ministers indicates to us that the Arab World is as concerned with development and progress in this unique sector as it is in economic and social development.

Our own concern this week is not just with the free creative springs that feed the currents of Arab culture; those springs are deep and powerful, and have existed for too many years to be in any danger. We are more concerned, however, with the manner in which the culture of the Arabs is freely and naturally disseminated. We are concerned about those fragile branches on which culture grows and spreads, and from which it drops its fruits of truth and art. We think especially of those organs of the mass media which are the living instruments of cultural dissemination, and the cutting edge of cultural development. Newspapers and magazines, radio and television, cinema and art, music and theatre. These are at once the substance of culture and the vehicles of its development.

Our feeling is that it is a task of Arab cultural officials to look closely at how one can nurture and goad the cultural institutions and development of the Arab people, but it is also their duty to see that the lively fruits of one's culture travel freely throughout the Arab nation. It is in this respect that the culture ministers should take a look at communications organs in the Arab World -- those fragile branches without which the tree of culture turns into a stump.

We suggest that one topic in this category of cultural concern is the manner in which the newspapers of Beirut are being systematically closed down by Arab peace-keeping soldiers acting in the name of the Arab League, and thus all the Arab people. The mass media is the front-line of many things, among which are a nation's culture, its thought, ideas, suggestions, ponderings, wonderings and, ultimately, its identity. The press is a mirror of the best and worst in any society, and we are concerned, as journalists and as Arabs, when we see Arab League soldiers -- acting under an Arab League mandate born in an Arab summit -- closing down the greater part of what had been the most professional press sector in the Arab World. If it had been irresponsible, the answer is to goad it into responsibility. If it must be restricted, the answer is to ease it into a restrictive path. But it is no small matter to flick off the lights one morning with a brusque finger acting in the name of an Arab consensus.

What happens to the stirrings of Arab cultural expression that one day find they have no place to be published and tested in the marketplace of Arab thought? What will we tell our children when they go to visit the botanical gardens of Arab culture, and find only a series of stumps?

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Jordan, Syria conclude meet on agriculture

DAMASCUS, Dec. 20 (JNA). — The joint Jordanian-Syrian committee for coordinating agricultural marketing in both countries Monday concluded its meeting which had started on Dec. 18.

The committee formed two special sub-committees for marketing, and for statistical, economical, and planning affairs, Director of Agricultural Marketing Association Mohammad Al Lobani said.

The committee also recommended the establishment of an association for marketing vegetables and fruit in Syria to join its Jordanian counterpart in facilitating the exchange of agricultural products between the two countries.

It has also recommended that pastures and animal breeding should be developed in the desert of the two countries, Mr. Al Lobani added.

Jordan, USSR sign economic, technical cooperation accord

AMMAN (JNA). — An agreement on economic and technical cooperation was signed with the Soviet Union at the National Planning Council Monday morning.

According to this agreement, the Soviet Union will open two training centres here, one vocational and the other technical, which will take 800 trainees each.

USSR will also provide 50 scholarships every year for training Jordanian technicians at the Soviet technical institutes.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni and the Soviet representative of the State's Committee for Technical and Vocational Training Affairs in the presence of the Soviet ambassador to Jordan.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Al Dustour and Al Sha'b Monday took an interest in the first conference of the Arab ministers of culture which His Majesty King Hussein opened Monday, while Al Rai tried to analyse the motives behind the dismissal of the Israeli

National Religious Party from Mr. Yitzhak Rabin's government.

Al Dustour says the Arab cultural conference in Amman may be regarded as the first attempt to lay down the groundwork of a unified Arab culture with the aim of "cultivating and polishing the mind of the Arab individual in order that he becomes an effective force in social, economic and political progress..."

Al Sha'b stresses the importance of "the unity of cultural spirit among the Arab peoples from which a united consciousness of the nation's issues and a common feeling of the necessity for achieving the aims of total Arab unity will emerge..."

Al Rai describes as extraordinary the decision by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to dismiss three cabinet ministers of the National Religious Party from his government. Rabin's government, the paper says, is now left with only 57 votes out of a total of 120 members of the Knesset. This means that if a vote of confidence is taken, it will result in the downfall of the government at any time.

Al Rai thinks that the Israeli

prime minister's sudden decision, at a time when new efforts for a Middle East peace solution are about to begin, points in two directions.

The first is the dissolution of the Knesset and new elections to take place within two months. This means that Mr. Rabin and his Labour Party would lose their dominant position with the result that the formation of a government capable of conducting negotiations would enter a blind alley...

The second is for Mr. Rabin to carry on with a minority government under a gentleman's agreement -- similar to the present position of Mr. Andreotti's Italian government -- which will not involve only demand for a vote of confidence. This also means that the Rabin government would still not be in a position to negotiate.

The paper is inclined to believe that the new development may be an attempt by the Israeli government to escape from any future American pressures and consequently to evade committing itself to political moves towards a peace settlement during the first three months of next year.

National Notes

● AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Sunday afternoon received the Commander of Palestine Liberation Army, Gen. Yusef al-Budeiri, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was also attended by Commander-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker.

● AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable of congratulations to Mr. Leonid Brezhnev on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
U.K. sterling	559.0	565.0
Swiss franc	135.8	136.2
German mark	139.6	140.0
French franc	66.7	67.0
Italian lira		
(for every 100)	38.5	38.7
Syrian pound	82.6	82.8
Lebanese pound	117.0	119.0
Saudi riyal	94.2	95.0
Iraqi dinar	942.0	952.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1151.0	1160.0
UAE dirham	83.0	84.0
Libyan dinar	715.0	725.0
Egyptian pound	462.0	475.0

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What's Going On

The Goethe Institute in cooperation with the University of Jordan presents a lecture on "Mohammed Iqbal and the German Culture". The lecture will be given by Professor Dr. B.M. Weischer. 3:00 p.m. at Samir Rifai Hall. A film entitled "Der Verrohung des Franz Blum". 8:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute, Jabal Amman.

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ANNUAL STAFF PARTY

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NOTICE

The British embassy in Amman will be closed from Dec. 24 - 27, 1976, and on Jan. 1, 1977, for the Christmas and new year holidays.

No visas will therefore be issued on these days.



Minister of Culture and Youth, Sharif Fawwaz Sharif, heads the first session of the First Conference of Arab Ministers of Culture opened at the Al Hussein Youth City Monday. (JNA photo).

Kamel As'ad leaves after 3-day visit

AMMAN (JNA). — The Speaker of the Lebanese parliament, Kamel As'ad, Sunday left for home at the end of a three-day visit during which he discussed the current Arab situation and solutions to the Lebanese conflict, with His Majesty King Hussein and high ranking government and parliamentary officials.

"Discussions centred in particular on the explosive problem in the South of Lebanon, which should be settled once and for all if we were to avoid the recurrence of past events," Mr. As'ad said in a press statement to a JNA correspondent at the airport before his departure.

"I believe His Majesty will see this matter due attention, for his experiences have proven that is the shield which has safeguarded the Arab cause against conspiracies," Mr. As'ad added. Earlier on Sunday, His Majesty King Hussein bestowed on Mr. As'ad at the Hashemiyeh Palace the Al Nahda order of the first class.

JD 100,000 allocated for overhead walks

AMMAN (JNA). — The Ministry of Public Works has allocated JD100,000 in its 1977 budget for building two overhead walks, a ministry source said here Monday.

The first will be built at the entrance to the University of Jordan and the second at the entrance to the University's Hospital. The two overhead walks will ensure safe passage for pedestrians at those places.

Wednesday Dec. 22 official holiday

AMMAN (JNA). — All government and public institutions will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 22 on the occasion of the Moslem lunar new year, an official communiqué issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Monday.

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EXAMINATION REGISTRATION

Registration for the June 1977 GCE examination will be at the British Council Centre, Jabal Amman as follows: Jan. 11-22, 9 a.m. to 12 noon every day except Sunday. Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Candidates should bring an official identity document bearing a photograph.

The closing date for registration for the City and Guilds of London Institute May/June 1977 examinations is Jan. 15.

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Ben Bella lawyer traps manner of his house arrest

PARIS, Dec. 19 (AFP). — The conditions under which deposed Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella has been imprisoned for the past 11 years are recalled in a letter in the Paris newspaper *Le Monde* yesterday from the ex-leader's lawyer, Madeleine Lafue-Veron.

"Ben Bella lives in total secrecy and in uncertainty about his future all the more worrying since there has not been any improvement in the conditions of his imprisonment or limit fixed on its duration," Mrs. Lafue-Veron wrote.

She declared that the term "house arrest" used by the Algerian government did not correspond to the legal reality.

Mr. Ben Bella only had three small rooms on the top floor of a huge block inhabited by the many soldiers and police officers guarding him, according to the lawyer.

Even this, she added, did not take into account the "200 to 300 troops massed round about."

His rooms were fitted with microphones and television circuits to allow a constant watch to be kept on the prisoner, she said.

A large grill fitted inside pre-

Kuwait plans to absorb new oil revenues

KUWAIT, Dec. 19 (AFP). — Kuwaiti oil revenues will go up by \$1,053 million a year following the price rises announced last week by OPEC, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, a senior official said here today.

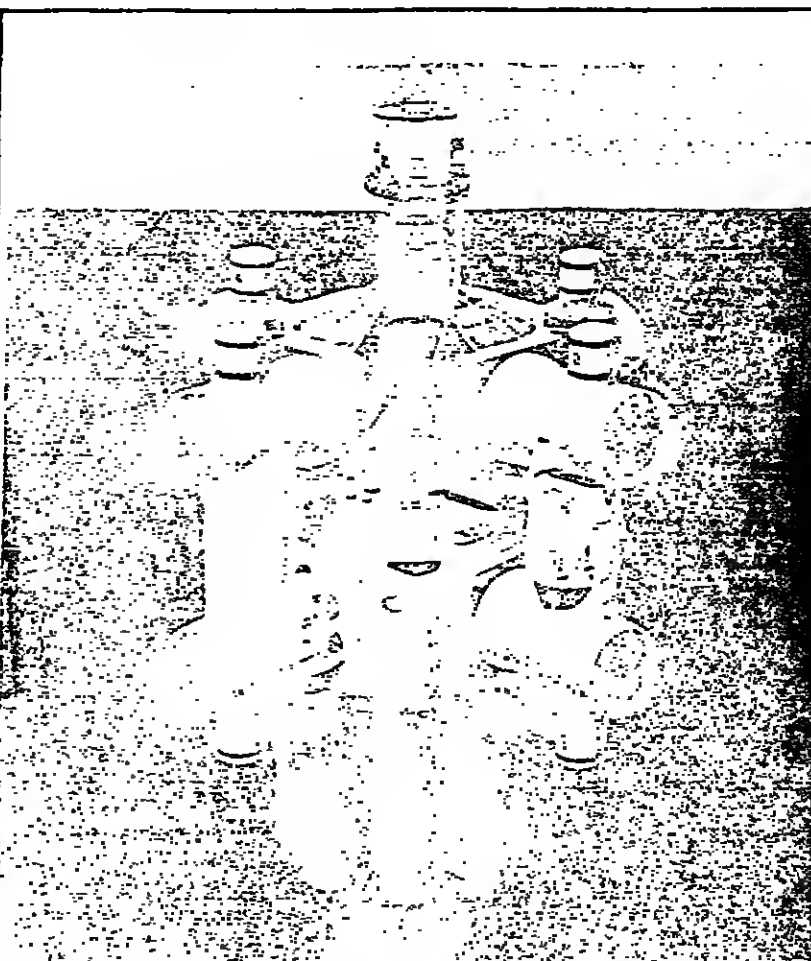
Eleven of OPEC's member states, including Kuwait, decided to boost prices by ten per cent on Jan. 1 and another five per cent six months later, but the other two members, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, said their increases would be limited five per cent from Jan. 1.

According to unofficial reports here, the Kuwaiti government will issue treasury bonds at the start of January to absorb surplus liquidity and halt galloping inflation.

The government has also allocated \$2,000 million to launch a contingency fund to ensure Kuwait's economic development in the post-oil era.

The Kuwaiti official, Oil Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Al Adassani, told *Agence France Presse* the Saudi decision at the OPEC meeting would not have "implications" for the sales of OPEC's other members.

OPEC's global production was 31 million barrels, and "this fact cannot be ignored," he said.



ELECTRICITY FROM THE SEA — This is a drawing of a generator of the future that would use temperature changes of ocean surface waters as a pollution-free fuel to produce electrical power. The concept of converting the energy of the sun stored in the seas to electricity has been declared feasible by Lockheed engineers working under a U.S. National Science Foundation contract in California. The platform would consist of crew quarters and maintenance facilities surrounded by turbine-generators and pumps. It would weigh about 300,000 tons and be taller than a 150-story building. Only about 20 metres would be above the water surface. One station might supply the electrical needs of a city with 100,000 residents.

Polisario presses for OAU meet on Sahara

ALGIERS, Dec. 20 (AFP). — The self-proclaimed Saharan Arab Democratic Republic has renewed calls for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to set a date and a venue for a summit meeting without delay.

Information Minister Mohammed Salem Ould Sadek told newsmen here yesterday that the OAU could not play about with the destiny of a people. "We cannot accept elastic delays over the calling together of this important summit."

We know the various manoeuvres being carried out by Rabat and Nouakchott to have it put off," he added.

The recent visit to France by Moroccan King Hassan and his

recent conciliatory statements were a desperate attempt to make the OAU believe that there was the possibility of an agreement being reached and that the African summit was, therefore, unnecessary, Mr. Ould Sadek charged.

He repeated the Saharan government's rejection of mediation attempts which did not take into account "the supreme and legitimate interests of the Saharan people."

His government was astonished that "an Arab country" had asked Spain for lists compiled in a "pseudo-census" which it was said to have made in Western Sahara before it handed the territory over to Morocco and Mauritania.

Vietnam looks to be a S. E. Asian trade power

HONG KONG, Dec. 20 (AFP). — The emergence of Vietnam as a major trading nation in Southeast Asia is predicted by American economic analysts in Hong Kong.

They base this view on official Vietnamese statements which indicate that foreign trade is to be stepped up and become a crucial part of the nation's whole economic activity during the second

five-year plan from the current year to 1980.

The latest "Indochina spotlight" newsletter compiled by the bank of America's Asian office in Hong Kong draws attention to the reference to trade which is made in the summary of the political report to the Vietnam Workers, (Communist) Party National Congress currently in session in Hanoi.

This report said "The aim of imports and exports is to acquire for ourselves modern techniques of the world and to bring higher economic results to production and labour in the country. Exports must be stepped up to counter-balance imports and create conditions for further expanding imports."

Commenting on this the American bank's newsletter said: "This is regarded as the clearest possible indication that Vietnam intends to become a significant trading nation in the Southeast Asian region."

"Although the newly-united country is believed to have a severe foreign exchange shortage, its physical and human resources contain considerable potential for cash-producing exports which will, in turn, allow the country to buy the needed products, particularly technology, from abroad."

What Vietnam is doing at present to earn foreign exchange is set out in the political report to the party congress. This said:

"At present the main direction for stepping up exports is to make the best use of the potentialities of tropical agriculture and forestry and the abundant labour potential of our country, and step up the exploitation of a number of mineral resources having fairly big reserves."

The newsletter noted that in a further bid to gain foreign exchange and stimulate economic growth, Vietnam was reported to be on the verge of finalising a new foreign investment code.

According to news reports received in Hong Kong, the code will provide for foreign ownership of 30 to 49 per cent.

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)

7:00 Breakfast show	14:30 Pop music USA
7:30 News bulletin	15:00 Concert hour
7:40 Morning melodies	16:00 Old favourites
8:00 Sign off	16:30 Easy listening
12:00 Pop session part I	17:00 Comedy series
12:30 Catch the word	17:30 Pop session part IV
12:45 Pop session part II	18:00 News summary
13:00 News summary	18:05 Listener's choice
13:05 Pop session part III	19:00 News bulletin
14:00 News bulletin	19:10 Music
14:15 Radio magazine	19:30 Sign off

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Irbid :	Zarqa :
Omar Qasrawi	Hikma
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Zarqa :	
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Pharmacies :	Talal (25021)
Amman :	Tower (61028)
Omar (42737)	Khayam (41541)
Adnan (39655)	Nahda (63003)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Departures :	8:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi	GMT
8:30 Baghdad (IA)	9:40 Kuwait (KAC)	05:00 News; 24 hours
10:00 Beirut	11:15 Aleppo, Damascus, (SAA)	05:30 Composer of the Week
10:30 Kuwait (KAC)	12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GA)	05:45 The World Today
11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam	13:15 Beirut	06:00 News; Press Review
12:00 Aqaba (SAA)	14:10 Aqaba (SAA)	06:30 Folk and Country
13:00 Athens (GA)	16:55 Paris	07:00 News; 24 hours
14:30 Rome	17:10 London	07:30 Composer of the Week
14:45 Damascus (SAA)	17:30 Frankfurt	07:45 Biology of a Lifetime
18:45 Cairo	17:40 Copenhagen, Vienna	08:00 News
19:00 Bahrain, Bangkok	18:10 Casablanca, Madrid, Athens	08:15 Short Story
19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi	18:15 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)	08:30 Contemporary Music
22:55 Doha, Muscat	23:15 Rome	09:00 News; U.K. Press Review
01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)	00:30 Rome (Alitalia)	09:15 The World Today
Arrivals :	01:30 Cairo	09:30 Financial News
7:30 Baghdad (IA)		09:45 1 Hear Music
8:30 Bangkok, Bahrain		10:15 Ulster '76

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Fire headquarters ...	" 22090
First aid, fire, police ...	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) ...	" 36361-2
Municipal water service (emergency) ...	" 37111-3
Police headquarters ...	" 39141
Najdeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS) ...	Tel. 41520
British Council ...	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre ...	" 37009
Goethe Institute ...	" 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre ...	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library ...	" 36111

BBC RADIO

15:15 Outlook	16:00 News; Commentary
16:15 Appointment with Fear	16:45 The World Today
17:00 News	17:09 Books and Writers
17:30 Take One	17:45 Sports Round-up
18:00 News; News about Britain	18:15 Radio Newsreel
18:30 Talkabout	19:00 Outlook; News Summary
19:42 Stock Market Report	19:45 The Ones that Got Away
20:00 News; 24 hours	20:30 The Pleasure's Yours
21:00 Business and Industry	21:15 Ulster '76
21:30 Farming World	22:00 News; The World Today
22:25 Financial News	22:35 Ragtime Piano
22:45 Sports Round-up	23:00 News; Commentary
23:15 Nature Notebook	23:30 Appointment with Fear

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6	Channel 6
6:00 Quran	7:30 News in Hebrew
6:05 Cartoons	7:45 Varieties
6:30 Wide world of sport	8:30 Please sir
8:00 News in Arabic	9:10 David Copperfield
Channel 3	10:00 News in English
7:30 Arabic series	10:15 Killers (on both channels)
8:30 Arabic series	
9:15 Reportage	

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JIMMY CARTER'S CABINET COLLEAGUES

Brzezinski slips into national security post - - like Kissinger

WASHINGTON D.C. (USIS). — many adviser on foreign affairs, the secretary of state, as well as the secretaries of defence, the treasury and other cabinet officials.

His willingness to play down his own contribution was characteristically modest. He told a reporter who questioned him about his closeness to Mr. Carter during the campaign that "I have the very strong view that the media has vastly exaggerated my role. I know for a fact that several other people have as much or more influence than I have had."

Now the president-elect has called upon Prof. Brzezinski, a former Polish diplomat's son who was considered to be one of Mr. Carter's most influential advisers during the campaign period, to fill a key foreign affairs position in the White House.

Mr. Carter announced last week that Mr. Brzezinski is his choice for the Office of Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, a post held during the Nixon Administration by Secretary of State Kissinger, with whom Prof. Brzezinski has often been compared.

Speaking to reporters after his nomination was announced by the president-elect, Prof. Brzezinski said he looked forward to the challenging job.

"I deeply believe", he said, "that we are at a time when we as a nation confront two fundamental alternatives -- either the imperative of increased or greater international cooperation or the spectre of increasing global turbulence."

"It will be a time that will demand the very best from us, not only intellectually but morally," he continued. "I'm glad to give all that I can on both scores."

Mr. Brzezinski told the newsmen he saw as his primary responsibility a role of "enhancing the decision-making process" in foreign policy. He said the process would involve the president, "and first of all and above all his pri-

mary adviser on foreign affairs, the secretary of state, as well as the secretaries of defence, the treasury and other cabinet officials.

tion of newsmen who sought his comments on developments in the communist world.

In the latter 1960s, from 1966 to '68, Mr. Brzezinski was a member of the State Department's Policy Planning Council. He was a strong supporter of the U.S. presence in Vietnam.

Writing in the prestigious journal, Foreign Affairs, in 1973, Prof. Brzezinski maintained that dealing with the communist world remained a key problem for the U.S. but he cited two other troublesome areas as well, the problems of the less developed countries and that maintaining the alliance relationships among the advanced nations.

To deal effectively with these problems Mr. Brzezinski proposed closer cooperation among North America, Western Europe and Japan.

"Such trilateral cooperation must now become the central priority of U.S. policy," he wrote. With David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, he helped to found the Trilateral Commission, a private group set up to promote the idea. President-elect Carter was asked to be a member and it was within the organization that the association of the two men was fostered.

Mr. Brzezinski has written and spoken critically of U.S. efforts to improve relations with the Soviet Union, but in an interview with a New York Times reporter just before the election he insisted that he was not opposed to detente.

"We have to have a broader detente," he said. "We will not accept detente where the Soviets set the rules and define the priorities. The American people will not ac-

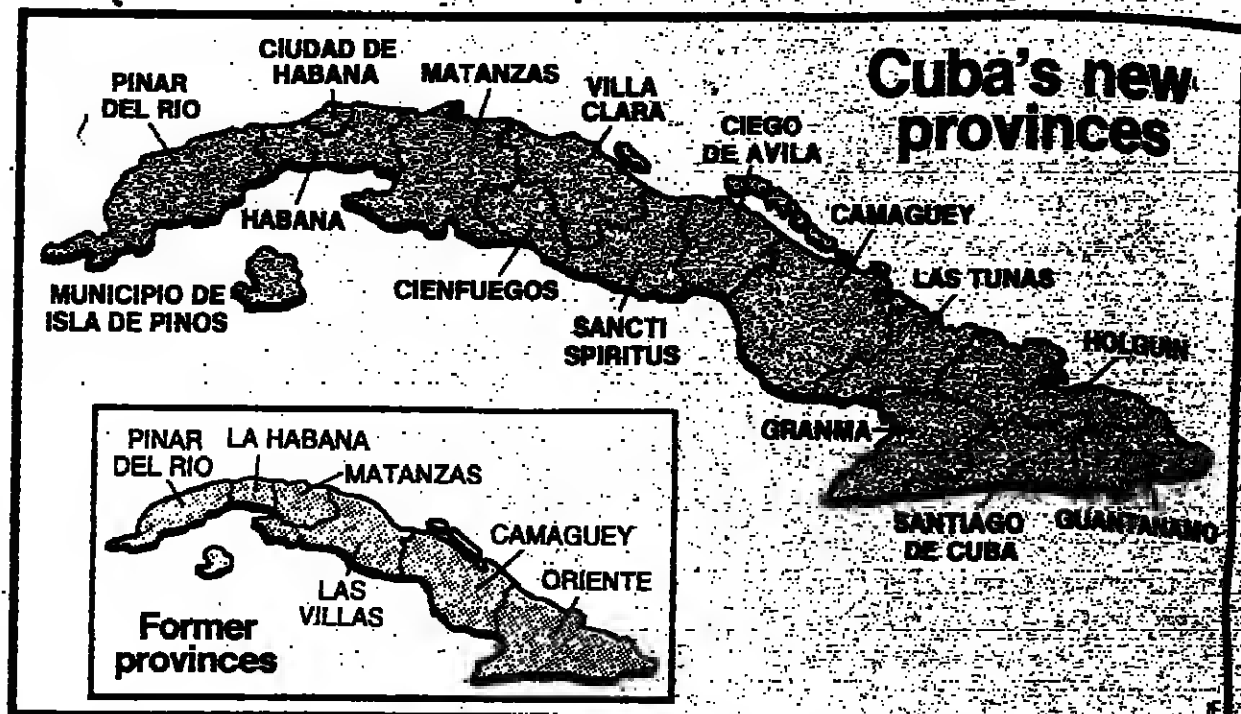
cept that and we'll slide back to confrontation."

In a speech to the Women's National Democratic Club -- also just before the election -- Mr. Brzezinski called for negotiation of a strategic arms agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union that would reduce the number of bombers, nuclear warheads and missiles for both sides.

Mr. Brzezinski's interest in communism and Eastern European foreign affairs stems from his family background. The son of Polish diplomat Tadeus Brzezinski and Leona Doman Brzezinski, he was born on March 28, 1928. During most of his early childhood he lived with his parents in France and Germany. In 1938, he accompanied them to Canada where his father served with the Polish consulate in Montreal throughout World War II. When the Communists gained control of the Polish government the family settled permanently in Canada.

As a child, Mr. Brzezinski had been taught privately in Europe. He continued his secondary education in Canadian Roman Catholic schools, and in 1945 entered McGill University in Montreal where he obtained his bachelor's degree with honours in 1949 and his masters' degree in 1950. He entered Harvard after McGill and received his Ph. D. degree and an appointment as a research fellow and instructor in government in 1953.

In June 1955 Mr. Brzezinski married Emilie Benes, a grandniece of pre-communist Czechoslovakian President Eduard Benes. Mrs. Brzezinski is a sculptress. The couple have three children.



Cuba decentralises in effort to boost sagging production

WASHINGTON D.C. (CSM). — Cuba took a long step recently towards restructuring its government.

Earlier this month a newly formed National Assembly met in Havana for the first time, one day after a structural change split up the island's present six provinces into 15 new provincial units.

The moves were part of Cuban prime Minister Fidel Castro's effort to institutionalise the revolution he began 20 years ago.

Moreover, they were part of an effort to bring Cuba's 9.6 million people into the political process.

Since February, when the Cuban people approved a new constitution for the island replacing the document of 1940, there have been a series of elections to name delegates to the National Assembly.

The elections, which actually began in a dress rehearsal in the small province of Matanzas in July, 1974, are aimed at allowing the Cuban people, rather than the Communist Party, to carry out many of the tasks of running the government.

The Communist Party may well hover over the scene, but the electoral process, known as the "people's power programme," does give

the Cuban citizen something of a say in government.

Critics of Dr. Castro's government argue that the change is little more than window dressing and that Cuba is still ruled with an iron fist by Dr. Castro and his immediate associates.

This criticism notwithstanding, the changes which took place in the governing apparatus of the island amount to a major reform of the Cuban political system.

Moreover, it needs to be noted that the elections of the past year and those contemplated in the future offer a degree of freedom of choice unknown in Cuba in the 18 years since Dr. Castro came to power.

The changes spring from the failure in 1970 of the much-publicised goal to produce 10 million tons of sugar. Dr. Castro assumed the blame for the failure, but he added that part of the problem was too much centralisation of power and decision-making authority in Havana.

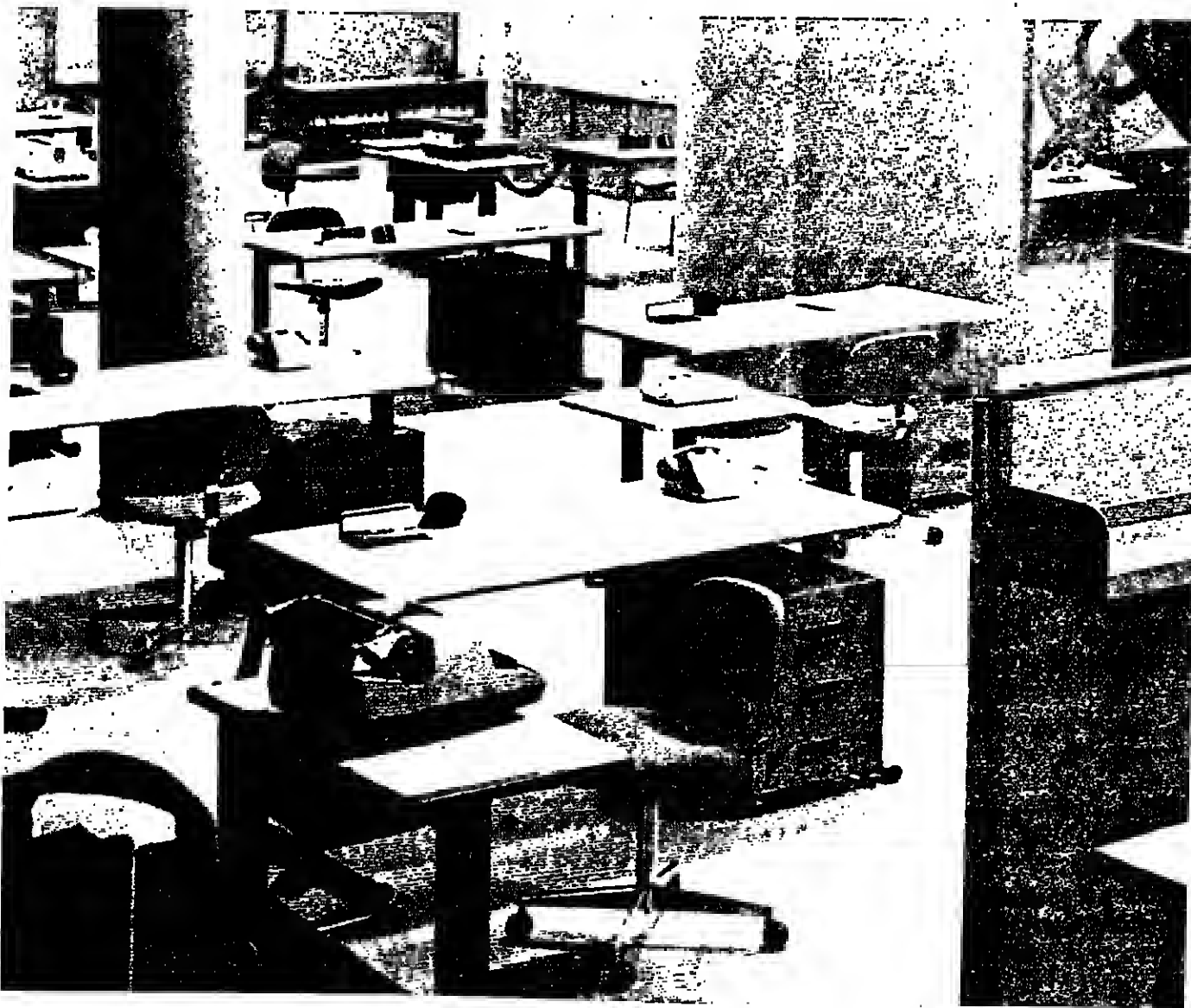
The Communist Party, he and others said, simply had too much of the reins of power in its hands. It was argued that the party could not possibly make decisions for the provinces in all cases.

This led to the planning for a new constitution, establishment of a National Assembly, the system of elections and the break-up of the six provinces into smaller units.

The new provincial setup is a major administrative change. While the western provinces of Pinar del Rio, Habana and Matanzas remain roughly as before, the three eastern provinces of Las Villas, Camaguey and Oriente are broken into 10 provinces.

The city of Havana is separated also from the province, and the Isle of Pines, which was administered by Pinar del Rio Province, becomes a separate municipality.

Some of the names of the new provinces ring with the mystique of the Cuban revolution: Cienfuegos, carved out of part of the former Las Villas, was named after Dr. Castro's former comrade-in-arms, Camilo Cienfuegos, who mysteriously disappeared 17 years ago; Granma, which is carved out of the former Oriente, is named for the yacht that carried Dr. Castro and his fellow revolutionaries to the island in 1956 to begin their successful rebellion against dictator Fulgencio Batista.

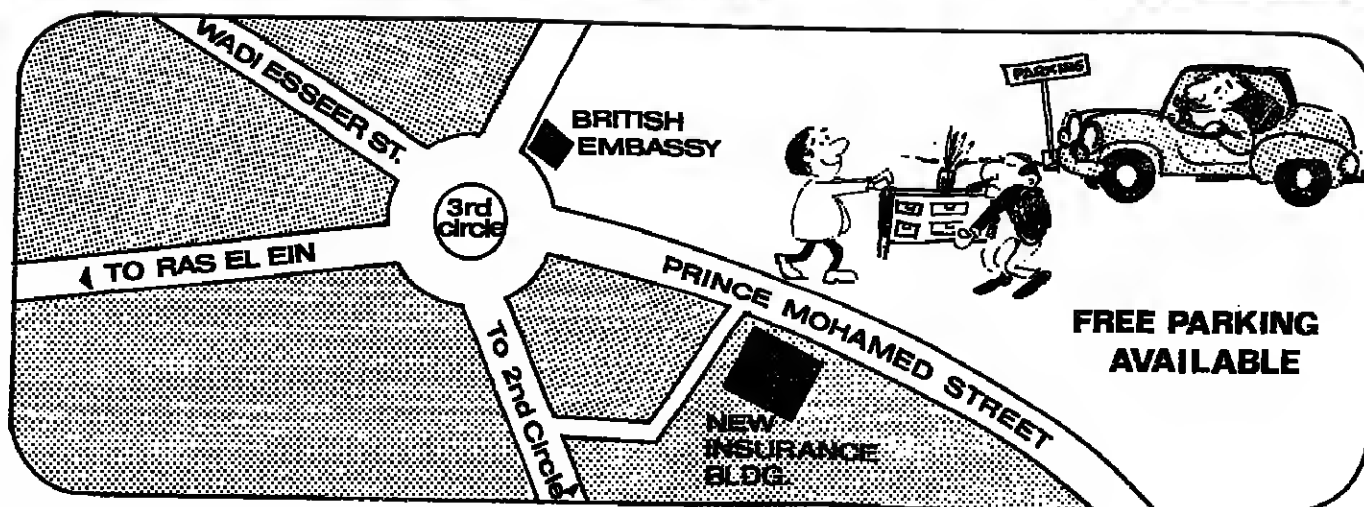


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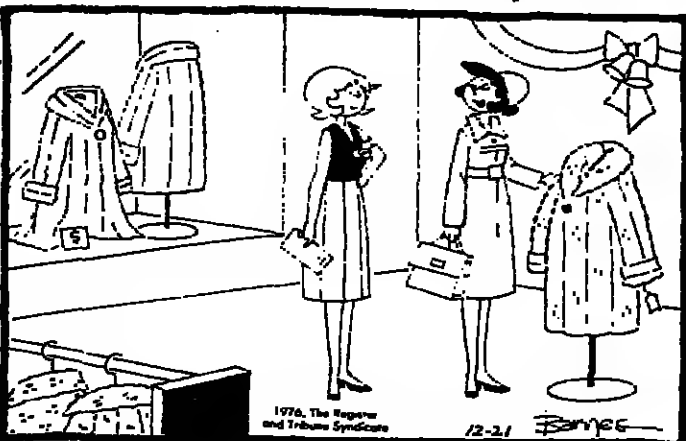


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THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"I'm looking for a Christmas gift for a husband who got me an outboard motor last year."

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



STAR-STUDED -- Tens of thousands of visitors flock to Celle, West Germany, for the autumn show of Hanover stud stallions. Members of the diplomatic corps are among the audience as the horse and carriage parades form the highlight of festivities. Celle stud was set up in 1735 and by 1800 had 100 stallions, mostly thoroughbreds. It currently has 210 stallions in service. Hanover thoroughbreds won four medals at the Montreal Olympics.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1976, The Chicago Tribune

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K 9 5 3
♥ K 10 9 3
♦ 10 5 2
♣ A Q

WEST
♠ 10 2
♥ Q J 8 2
♦ Q 8 7
♣ K J 8 2

EAST
♠ Q J
♥ A 6 5 4
♦ A K 4 3
♣ 7 6 4

SOUTH
♠ A 3 7 6 4
♥ 7
♦ J 9 6
♣ 10 9 5 3

The bidding:
East: South West North
1♣ 1♠ Dble. 2♠
3♥ Pass Pass 3♠
Dble. Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Seven of ♣.

Philip Morris International annually sponsors a series of tournaments across Europe which offer handsome prizes for individual events and a substantial overall award for the best performance in the series, known as the European Cup. This hand comes from the event played in Evian, France and features superb defense by French internationalists Leon Tlotner and Leon Yalioze.

Duplicate players tend to enter the auction more readily than do their rubber bridge counterparts, but by any standards South's overcall left something to be desired. West's double was negative—that is, for take-out, not penalties, promising holdings in the unbid suits. North obviously knew the sort of overcalls his partner was liable to make, for he hid a conservative two spades on a hand that some would have thought sufficient to raise to game.

Knowing that his partner held hearts, East introduced his skinny suit at the three-level, and North, for reasons best known only to him, competed further rather than double. East correctly judged that his best chance for a plus score lay in defeating the opponents, so he doubled to end the auction.

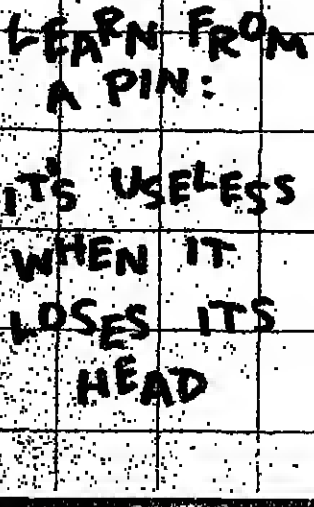
West led a low diamond. East cashed the ace and king and continued with a diamond to his partner's queen. West shifted to the queen of hearts, and declarer made a good play by refusing to cover. East now took time out to consider the situation.

The dummy hand was, to say the least, menacing. Declarer surely held five spades to the ace, so it looked as if there were no trump tricks for the defenders. Dummy's heart length meant that declarer held only a singleton, and the ace-queen of clubs made it impossible for the defenders to score a club trick.

East realized that his only hope lay in finding his partner with the ten of trumps. Therefore, he overtook his partner's queen of hearts with the ace and led the thirteenth diamond. No matter what declarer did, West would uppercup by ruffing with the ten of trumps, promoting one of East's trumps to the setting trick.

GRAFFITI

LEARN FROM A PIN:



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INARG

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FARGOE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHISK AORTA GLOBAL CANNED

Answer: Why bows and arrows are no longer used in warfare—THEY HAVE DRAWBACKS

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TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

PLEASE SIR
BLACK POWER

Mr. Potter finds his job endangered when the school administration appoints a black teacher as his assistant.

KILLERS

MURDER AT THE METROPOLE

Man is accused of murdering his mother and setting up fire in hotel where they live, to cover up for the murder.

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



ENGLAND Jack Clayton

"Hottest torch singer in town."

Your Horoscope

By Jeane Dixon

TUESDAY, DEC. 21

Your birthday today: The Sun leaves Sagittarius, enters Capricorn at 12:36 p.m. EST. Your daily living is now programmed toward efficiency, a more flexible response to changing external conditions. Relationships depend mostly on your initiative. Today's natives are ambitious: Sagittarius for commercial reasons, Capricorns for spiritual progress. The line between selfishness and healthy self-interest is thin but finely drawn. Both signs born this year will seek control of management: Sagittarius focusing on people, Capricorn trying for sensible rules.

Aries [March 21-April 19]: New work teams include people you do not like. Carry your legitimate share, but claim recognition as you go, so it won't cause confusion if you pull out.

Taurus [April 20-May 20]: Group action is the only practical approach for improving working conditions. Hurrying spoils progress. Reward yourself for a tough day with a treat tonight.

Gemini [May 21-June 20]: Moderation in all things is ideal, but improbable. Do what's possible within the capacity of available resources, promise no more than you can deliver.

Cancer [June 21-July 22]: You now enter the quiescent phase of your annual cycle. Accept collaboration or wait until an advantage makes feasible a stronger single-handed operation.

Leo [July 23-Aug. 22]: Go over your basic stock in trade, consider changes. Try to develop a new sales pitch

or argument. Criticism is an expression of the critic's own shortcomings.

Virgo [Aug. 23-Sept. 22]: Leadership comes to you, along with competition from those who'd like to fill your shoes. Lay out a modest program. Make peace in cases of recent friction.

Libra [Sept. 23-Oct. 22]: Surrounded by lots of comment, arrangements must be changed, with you supplying the initiative, energy. Odd coincidences provide a highly dramatic moment.

Scorpio [Oct. 23-Nov. 21]: Distant communications are important, but don't wait for word to proceed if you're right. Where there's default, find out what it is and work around it.

Sagittarius [Nov. 22-Dec. 21]: Take sensitive feelings into account. Be a good listener, pick up clues to hidden or confidential information. Budgets are very tight, so make no loans.

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 19]: Where you have intense, positive feelings, say what is on your mind, as people don't realize where you stand. Avoid self-indulgent whims or excesses.

Aquarius [Jan. 20-Feb. 18]: You're willing to defend people out of principle; don't expect the same treatment if the shoe is on the other foot. Overdo nothing and you'll thrive.

Pisces [Feb. 19-March 20]: In tension from the tension or excitement of the last few days, there's a chance for some second thoughts. You can make a good buy on special items now.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

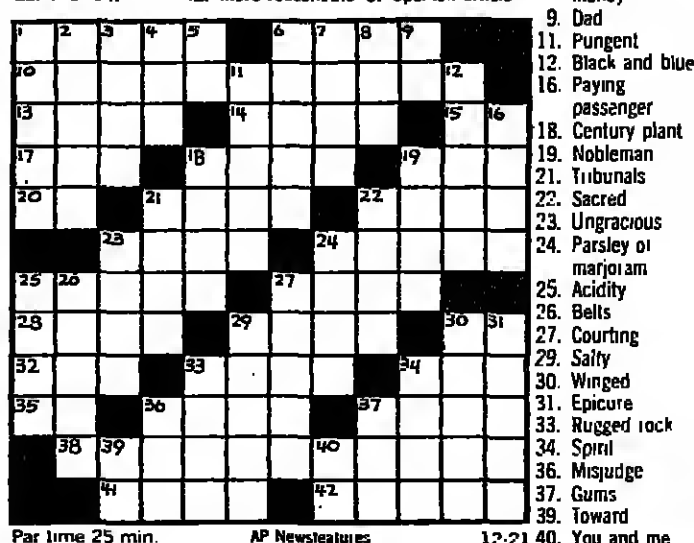
ACROSS

1. Succinct
6. Boutique
10. Figure of equal sides
13. Legal prosecution
14. Spanish linen
15. Provided
17. Dress leather
18. Jelune
19. Feminine name
20. Morndin dye
21. Glib
22. Filament
23. Cross
24. Nomadic group
25. Cloudless sky
27. Market
28. Musical ending
29. Inter
30. Commercial
32. Undivided
33. Wicker basket
34. Biblical judge
35. Anent
36. Hibernia
37. German lancer
38. Constrict
41. Carousal
42. More reasons

Solution of Sunday's Puzzle

DOWN

1. Integument
2. Tantalum
3. Bankruptcy
4. Rest
5. Spanish article
6. Sunset
7. Regard
8. Anglo-Saxon money
9. Dad
11. Pungent
12. Black and blue
16. Paying passenger
18. Century plant
19. Nobleman
21. Tribunal
22. Sacred
23. Ungracious
24. Parsley or marjoram
25. Acidity
26. Belts
27. Courting
29. Salfy
30. Winged
31. Epicure
33. Rugged rock
34. Spirit
36. Misjudge
37. Gums
38. Toward
40. You and me



Par time 25 min. AP Newsfeatures 12-21 40. You and me

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Iranian press lambasts Yamani

TEHRAN, Dec. 20 (R). — Official Iranian news media today accused Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani of serving imperialism and stabbing his brothers in the back by limiting an increase in the price of his country's oil.

At last week's OPEC conference, 11 countries decided on a 15 per cent increase while Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates settled for five.

The official Radio Iran devoted all its 15-minute news bulletin this morning to local and foreign criticism of Sheikh Yamani, but in keeping with the rest of the media, it refrained from direct criticism of Saudi Arabia.

A government newspaper said, "How will the Saudi nation deal with a man who has thus sold its international respect and interests to imperialism?"

The paper said Sheikh Yamani could frame a congratulatory message from the U.S. government "to always remind him of proudly serving imperialism and stabbing his brothers in the back."

The official television in a commentary last night said Sheikh Yamani did not represent the Saudi King or government but "big companies in the area."

PALESTINIAN PRISONERS STRIKE HUNGER STRIKE IN ISRAELI JAIL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20 (AFP). — Imprisoned former Palestinian guerrillas went on a hunger strike two days ago in an Israeli jail, the daily Yedioth Aharonot said today.

At Ashdod Prison, the detainees refused to eat until they obtain recognition as prisoners-of-war. Their request was rejected by the prison administration and the strike is continuing.

Francoists bully Cortes head

MADRID, Dec. 20 (R). — An angry crowd of ultraright wingers jostled, jeered and tried to attack the president of the Cortes (parliament) today, accusing him of betraying Gen. Franco.

Senor Torcuato Fernandez Miranda, a confidant of King Juan Carlos, had to be rescued by two policemen armed with sub-machineguns outside a church after attending a requiem mass for Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco who was assassinated in 1973.

Maioist guerrillas are holding the President of the advisory Council of State, Senor Antonio Maria de Oriol y Urquijo, hostage for the 10th day. They are demanding the release of Spain's estimated 200 political prisoners in exchange.

Shouting "traitor" and "government resign", the crowd outside the church pressed around white-faced Senor Fernandez Miranda and stopped him getting into his car.

They forced him and his wife to walk across the street to the U.S. embassy and for a while, it seemed the couple might have to take refuge inside.

Two policemen with sub-machineguns kept the crowd from attacking the couple, but the crush was such that one of the guns clattered to the ground with its strap broken.

The crowd threatened a three-man television crew of the British Broadcasting Corporation. A man rapped a camera with his umbrella, a freelance television cameraman was hit on the head and his camera damaged.

Senor Fernandez Miranda's car finally forced its way through the crowd and he and his wife got in, with the policemen keeping the demonstrators at bay with their guns.

The crowd which had earlier cheered Gen. Franco's widow with cries of "Franco, Franco, Franco", beat on the car with fists and umbrellas as it sped off.

Senor Fernandez Miranda drew the crowd's anger because he played

a major role in getting the government's political reform bill through the Cortes. It was overwhelmingly endorsed in a national referendum last week.

Under the political reforms, Spain is to hold free elections for a two-house parliament that is intended to rewrite the constitution and dismantle the 40-year-long Franco dictatorship.

The Spanish government is reportedly considering a Christmas amnesty of political prisoners which would lead to the release of Senor Oriol.

Sources close to Spanish officials said today that government technical services were studying a draft amnesty decree. They did not specify the extent of the proposed decree.

Senor Oriol's wife meanwhile passed a message to her husband today through the Madrid daily Informaciones in which she reassured him about her health. In a letter on Saturday, Senor Oriol expressed concern about the health of his wife, who suffers from heart trouble.

Chinese snub Brezhnev on his 70th birthday

MOSCOW, Dec. 20 (R). — Chinese leaders refrained from sending any message of congratulations to Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev on his 70th birthday, Chinese sources said today.

The omission by Mr. Hua Kuo-feng, who as Chinese Communist Party chairman is Mr. Brezhnev's direct counterpart, was the second personal snub to the Soviet party chief in as many months.

At the end of October, Peking rejected a message from Mr. Brezhnev congratulating Mr. Hua on his appointment.

Peking's silence, while pro-Moscow communist parties showered Mr. Brezhnev with tributes, contrasted with the long message of congratulations sent by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and his colleagues in 1964, when Mr. Brezhnev's predecessor, the late Nikita Khrushchev, celebrated his 70th birthday.

That Chinese message acknowledged there were differences between the two parties on numerous ideological issues, but expressed confidence that they were only temporary.

Birthday tributes printed today in Pravda, the main Communist

Party newspaper, showed that French communist leader Georges Marchais refrained from congratulating Mr. Brezhnev personally.

Instead, French communists sent a message signed by M. Gaston Plissonier, a member of the Political Bureau who represented his party at the Soviet Communist Party congress last February.

M. Marchais has been out of favour with Moscow since he began propagating a French style of communism diverging from Moscow's ideological line. The differences have been compounded by his criticism, together with other French communists, of the way the Soviet Union treats political dissidents.

Unlike M. Marchais, the other main exponent of Euro-Communism, Italian party chief Enrico Berlinguer, signed his party's birthday message in person.

The same was true of British Communist leader Gordon McLennan, whose party has also been strongly critical of Moscow over its treatment of dissidents. His message was the shortest from any foreign communist party and was printed at the bottom of the page.

ECONOSCOPE

By Jawad Ahmad

Which matters most: Quantity or prices?

A decision was recently adopted by the Ministry of Supply to prohibit the export of agricultural produce. The decision was prompted by the high prices of these goods, and was designed to increase the domestic supply in order to lower prices.

The decision was in force for a week, ending last Monday. It stirred loud protests by producers, but was a popular decision among consumers.

Producers claim that it was a costly decision because it denied farmers access to their markets in the Gulf countries. Gulf importers, particularly Saudi Arabia, found alternative sources.

Consumers thought that they were better entitled to the output of their country than anybody else. A decrease in prices means a commensurate improvement in their welfare.

The quantity restriction involved in the said decision has two conflicting aspects. On the production side it meant an opportunity cost; while on the consumption side it meant a net gain. The decision was economically sound if its gain exceeded its cost; which is a very difficult thing to assess right now.

Yet the whole affair throws the door wide open for comparison between quantity restrictions and price restrictions.

Price restrictions help ration scarce commodities among buyers who are able and willing to pay the higher price. Quantity restrictions -- assuming no change in prices -- play

a role in macro policies whose objective is to restrict the volume of, say, imports, consumption, etc. However, their micro effect is usually adverse to their major purpose, because they lead to black markets and other practices.

Adopting a sheer market rationing mechanism in a market which is not free is a petitive is not the right measure. Black markets are usually less drastic than government restrictions.

Therefore, in lieu of direct quantity restrictions, the imposition of an export tax on agricultural goods is the better alternative. First, it leads to an increase in government revenues. If the tax rate is properly chosen, it will not impair the competitiveness of these goods in export markets.

Second, it may force marginal producers to sell their produce at home, rather than abroad.

Third, taxation is a more flexible tool, particularly for stabilisation purposes, than quantity restrictions.

It is difficult indeed to arrive at a policy which will please everybody. Yet it seems plausible at this stage to assume that a balanced position between traders and buyers can be found; surely there is a better approach.

Unfortunately, every new restrictive decision gives an opportunity for some cart-baggers to gain windfall profits which may erode the purpose behind the decision.

Pope Paul: The time is most propitious for peace in M.E.

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 20 (Agencies). — Pope Paul VI said today there was a favourable climate for a negotiated settlement of the Middle East conflict, and urged the parties involved to take advantage of it.

Addressing a consistory of cardinals here, the Pope said: "We express the hope that ... those responsible both wish to, and know how to, take the opportunity."

In an apparent reference to recent statements by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and others calling for negotiations in Geneva, he said: "Authoritative opinion judges the present a particularly propitious time for the search for a negotiated settlement."

He urged that there be "an appropriate solution to the problem of Christian, Jewish and Moslem holy places, and most of all to the problem of Jerusalem."

In a lengthy statement on Lebanon, the Pope said the "efforts for goodwill of all leaders must now be devoted to solving the problems which started the conflict and to the rebuilding of the country."

He expressed the hope that war-torn Lebanon would reconstruct itself and "shine again as an example of respectful and fruitful co-existence between communities of different religions."

The Pope said he hoped the Geneva conference aimed at reaching a settlement between whites and blacks in Rhodesia would achieve positive results, providing real justice, peaceful co-existence and good collaboration between all the people of the country.

In his first comment on negotiations on a new pact between the Vatican and the Italian state, reducing Catholic privileges in Italy, he said the Vatican's goal was "a correct and friendly understand-

ing between church and state." would not yield to demands on abortion, divorce and sexual morality as it also.

But he touched only in vague ologies", Pope Paul said in his terms on the opposition to the annual Christmas message to the Vatican of traditionalists. He said that they, like those who thought the church leadership not radical enough, were guilty of a lack of humility.

The Pope repeated his sharp denunciations of "terrorism, coldly organised by dark forces which hide in the shadows, spread death and disturb the consciences of the majority, defenceless and disoriented, in so many nations."

The spiritual leader of 700 million Catholics dealt briefly but clearly with moral issues, saying he

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

● SINGAPORE, Dec. 20 (R). — Vietnam's ruling Workers' Party has ended a week-long conference in Hanoi after renaming itself the Communist Party of Vietnam and re-electing Mr. Le Duan as its secretary general. The congress, the first major Communist gathering since national reunification earlier this year, elected a Politburo of 14 permanent and three alternate members.

● UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 20 (R). — The General Assembly today called for wider economic sanctions against the white minority government of Rhodesia and asked the Security Council to meet urgently to consider the matter. The resolution, approved by 124 votes to none with seven members abstaining, also condemned the continued importation of Rhodesian chrome and nickel by the United States, in violation of existing sanctions orders. The United States, which voted against the resolution in the committee stage, abstained in the assembly vote today.

● TOKYO, Dec. 20 (R). — A group of Japanese nuclear scientists and legal experts has appealed to President-elect Jimmy Carter to remove immediately all nuclear weapons from South Korea. In a similar appeal to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, the group said the U.S. had about 700 nuclear weapons in South Korea.

● MANILA, Dec. 20 (R). — A U.S. navy F-14 Tomcat missed the deck of an aircraft carrier on landing yesterday and crashed into the sea, a navy spokesman said. Both crew ejected and escaped unhurt. It was the second time in recent months that an accident had sent a top-secret Tomcat to the bottom of the sea. Navy experts said the latest plane lost was lying in about 4,000 ms of water and no salvage attempt would be made.

● PEKING, Dec. 20 (R). — China today launched a strong attack on Soviet policy in the Middle East at the start of an official visit here by Lt.-Col. Ibrahim Al Hamdi, the Yemen Arab Republic's head of state. A front-page editorial in the People's Daily said the Russians were doing everything in their power to sow discord in the region, provoking civil war and plotting armed subversion. "Under the signboard of an all-round settlement of the Middle East question, it (the Soviet Union) is trying to mislead the public in an attempt to continue to impose the state of 'no war, no peace' on the people of various Arab countries," it said. It praised the Yemen Arab Republic for denouncing the superpowers' "criminal activities" in the Red Sea and pledged China's support.

● ISTANBUL, Dec. 20 (R). — Istanbul university was closed indefinitely today after left and rightwing students battled on the campus -- only a week after it reopened. Eight people were taken to hospital after police broke up the battle, the latest in a series that has disrupted university life in Turkey and taken scores of lives over the past year.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed a little off the top Monday after early profit taking had given way to small buying interest, and at 15:00 the F.T. index was up 3.4 at 342.9.

Government stocks were up to 1/4 point higher among longs while shorts gained around 1/8, encouraged by the higher level of sterling. Selective demand prompted net gains of up to 8p among leading industrials, but most rises were in the 1p to 3p range.

Oils were a penny or so harder where changed while banks were little changed after moving narrowly.

Mining shares were steady to a touch harder in generally quiet trading and Australians were off the bottom.

Leading equities had gains of up to 10p in selective buying pared by a few pence by the close, but net gains of 6p to 8p were scored by Hawker, Beecham, Unilever and Metal Box, while Lucas and BAT rose 4p and 5p respectively. Glaxo, Bowater, GKN, Thorn, EMI, GEC, Tubes and Dunlop gained between 1p and 3p.

ICI and Courtauld were both a penny easier on balance after irregular movements.

● TRIPOLI, Libya, Dec. 20 (AFP). — Italian Trade Minister Rinaldo Ossola was quoted today by the Libyan Ama news agency as saying that the two governments had set up a joint economic commission to provide "a stable basis" for economic cooperation. Speaking on his departure after official talks here, the Italian minister promised Italian technical aid for Libya's "ambitious" development plans.

● RABAT, Dec. 20 (R). — Moroccan Minister of Commerce Abdelatif Ghissassi left here today for Madrid for talks which were expected to cover cooperation between the two countries in phosphate mining and sea fishing.

● MOSCOW, Dec. 20 (AFP). — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda today announced the arrival here of Chilean Communist leader Luis Corvalan but made no reference to his exchange for Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky. The Soviet news agency Tass said that Communist Party Secretary General Leonid Brezhnev had persistently fought for the freedom of the Chilean Communist leader.

● ZURICH, Dec. 20 (AFP). — Doctors reportedly found Mr. Vladimir Bukovsky, who spent several years in Soviet labour camps and psychiatric hospitals because of his dissident views, in "satisfactory" condition but in need of rest. Poet Natalya Gorbanevskaya, one of the few people with access to the 33-year-old dissident, said that the ulcer from which he suffered while in detention had apparently cleared up. The dissident's 12-year-old nephew, Mikhail, was meanwhile being treated for a reported cancer at a local clinic.

● SALISBURY, Dec. 20 (AFP). — Black nationalist guerrillas killed 27 black labourers last night at a tea estate near the Rhodesian border with Mozambique, officials at the estate said today.

● MANILA, Dec. 20 (R). — Talks underway in Manila have brought a major breakthrough towards settling the Moslem rebellion in the southern Philippines, Mrs. Imelda Marcos wife of the Philippines president, said here tonight. She was speaking on her return from a trip to Libya and New York, during which she met Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

U.S. GROWTH FORECASTS

HOVER AROUND 5%
NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (AFP). — Next year's growth in the United States will be 4.8 per cent and the unemployment rate will be 7.3 per cent as against the current 8.1 per cent, Time magazine said today in its latest issue.

Another publication, U.S. News and World Report, forecast a growth of 5.1 per cent in real terms and an unemployment rate of 6.7 per cent at the close of next year.

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